

This experiment that the Obama administration is pushing the Congress to pass would rip out that system and put in its place what I think would be an inferior system. People don't understand why we need to do it. And, in fact, we don't have to do it.

Our proposal is essentially three things that would allow us to keep this great medical system that we have, bring down the costs and make it affordable to everyone. We would allow small companies to form co-ops and bargain for their insurance coverage, much the same as the Kentucky Farm Bureau does in Kentucky even today. We would do away with junk lawsuits that drive up the cost of practice and cause doctors to perform very expensive defensive medicine.

Do not pass this bill.

SLOW DOWN ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to slow down.

The second day in office, the President said within 12 months Guantanamo will be closed. He's now found out that rushing and making that decision was the wrong decision and that the teams that he has in place have clearly indicated they will not be able to make that goal.

Then we rushed into a stimulus bill, \$787 billion on the backs of our kids and our grandkids. And it's not working. Rushing through this process doesn't work.

We then did an ill-advised cap-and-trade system which has further put the brakes on our economy. We rushed it through.

And now we're looking at rushing through a health care bill. People are talking about what's in the bill. No one really knows because they're still negotiating, and there are still some that say we should vote and we should vote this week, even though a bill isn't in front of us.

Let's slow down; let's do this in a professional way and make sure that we have a professional product.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

Also, I have a parliamentary inquiry. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this chart that I have here, I have been banned, as a Member of Congress, from mailing this to my constituents or just disseminating it.

Is it within the rules of the House, an order of the House for me to be allowed to present this chart here at this time on the floor of the House of Representatives?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's chart has not drawn any objection.

Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICA. I made that parliamentary inquiry because Members of Congress have been banned from distributing this chart which shows the Obama Democrat health care plan. Now, anytime you can get a bill from Congress and it proposes creating new agencies or activities, and in this case a health care reform, and you chart it, it tells a lot.

Once we charted this health care proposal, Members of Congress were banned from disseminating this chart. So, Mr. Speaker, this may be the only opportunity my constituents have to see this.

Last week, we asked with the stimulus package, Where are the jobs? This week we ask with the health care plan, Where are the reforms? There are over 53 new agencies, bureaucracies, and bureaucrats added in this health care so-called reform. I want health care reform. The American people want health care reform. But I don't think this is the reform that they asked for.

LET'S BE HONEST ABOUT THIS HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, some things just don't add up. We're told that the Democrats' version of health care reform will cost less in the long run. Haven't we heard this before?

When Medicare was instituted more than 30 years ago, for the first 25 years we were told that it would cost this amount. Instead, it costs nine times that much and that holds true for just about every government program that we institute.

There are multiple, multiple times that it costs more and more and more than we ever thought it would. How do you control costs when you have no money to spend, when you have to borrow money? You control costs by rationing. Markets control costs with competition, a ration by competition. But governments control costs by rationing. And so what will happen here inevitably is that the services that you are now used to receiving, the medical services will be severely circumscribed.

Let's be honest about this reform, at least, and tell people what they're going to get.

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CONGRESS SHOULD NOT APPROVE A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration's plan for a government takeover of health care will raise

taxes, ration care, extend wait times, and let a government commission make decisions that should be made by families and their doctors. This scheme will increase our national deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars and will increase, not decrease, the cost of health care.

During a recent health care telephone town meeting with 1,200 of my constituents, I asked them the question if the government should determine how much health care they received. More than 9 out of 10 said "no."

President Obama is intent on making the government too big, too intrusive, and too expensive. We should listen to our constituents. Congress should not approve a government takeover of health care.

VOTE DOWN THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, President Obama, in part of his campaign to be elected to office and part of his campaign after he had been inaugurated as President, said that we have an economic calamity, and we can't fix it unless we first fix health care, and that health care is broken.

Well, if you have a business that's broken, it doesn't take a \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion program to try to fix it. If the problem with health care is we're spending too much money on health care, why do we have to spend \$1 trillion or \$2 trillion more to fix it? I mean that is the number one question that doesn't seem to be answered by the administration.

And the second one, a statement that is not believable to the American people, is the idea that when the President promises if you like your health insurance program, you get to keep it. In fact, if they pass this legislation, they will take it away, and it says in section 102 of the bill that they're going to take it away. The American people are not going to be able to decide if they get to keep their health insurance program because the government will write new rules for every health insurance program, and the employers will decide whether the insurance is cheaper under the public plan, the government-run plan, or the private.

Vote this down.

IT'S THE ECONOMY THAT'S BROKEN

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very reluctant to criticize the President of the United States. He has the most difficult job, as do we, and we must work together. But I'm really confused because he keeps referring to our health system as broken. I don't know what

that means. What does it mean when you break a health system?

When I went to the doctor recently, no problem. I went in, saw him, got the prescription, and left. I needed hospital treatment, went in, had the surgery, and left. Everything worked fine. It was not broken.

I think the real problem is that our economy is broken. And I know in the State of Michigan, where I live, our unemployment rate for June is 15.2 percent. If people aren't working, they tend to lose their health care because they usually get it through their employer. Starting August 24 in Michigan, we expect an average of 18,000 people in Michigan to roll off unemployment insurance each month. By the end of 2009, we expect to have 99,000 people who have lost their benefits. That is the problem we must address.

We have to get people back to work, and when they get back to work, they will get their health care back.

PEOPLE ARE NOT WAITING IN LINE TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY FOR HEALTH CARE; IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I have said it many times on this floor: Neither party has an exclusive on integrity or ideas. And these challenges are not Republican challenges or Democratic challenges; they are, in fact, American challenges.

But I have to tell you a few years ago, a Republican President with a Republican Congress, he proposed sweeping changes to immigration policy, but those changes kind of flew in the face of the rule of law, they threatened our sovereignty, and Republicans said "no."

Here we are today. All of us want our President to be successful. But the Democratic Party needs to look at the President and say, This is not what we need to protect our health care system. We need to change it. We need to reform it. We need to improve it. But we don't need government control of health care. It's too important.

Eighty-five percent of the people in this country today are satisfied with their health care, and they are afraid that this new proposal will put that in jeopardy.

This is a matter of life or death. People are not waiting in line to leave this country for health care; it's the other way around.

UNDER THE PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PLAN, MEDICAL CARE WILL BECOME EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in the early 1990s, I went to a reception in

Lebanon, Tennessee, and the doctor who delivered me came and brought my records. I asked him how much he charged back then, and he said he charged \$60 for 9 months of care and the delivery if they could afford it.

Before the Federal Government got so heavily involved in medical care, medical care was cheap and affordable by almost everyone, and doctors even made house calls.

Then the Federal Government got into the business and costs exploded. In fact, the predictions on Medicare and Medicaid, it costs about 10 times more after 25 years than what was predicted.

The same thing will happen on the health care plan that is before the Congress today. The costs will far exceed the predictions. Medical care will become even more expensive and more unaffordable. In fact, Mark Levin, the radio commentator, said a few nights ago that it will put massive costs over onto the States to expand their Medicare programs, and then States like mine of Tennessee, which don't have an income tax, will be forced into having one.

This plan is not good, especially for the poor and lower-income people.

AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important responsibility in front of us on health care reform.

The cost of inaction will undoubtedly bear a heavier burden on individuals, families, small business owners, and our economy the longer we delay. Without reform the cost of health care for the average American family is expected to rise \$1,800 every year, with no end in sight. If we don't act, 14,000 Americans will continue to lose their health insurance every single day.

The America's Affordable Health Choices Act has helped our Nation begin to tackle this issue in a meaningful way. Already we have agreed that this bill must prevent insurance companies from denying coverage based on your medical history or dropping your coverage when you are sick. This is a key and needed reform that will stop insurers from gaming the system by covering only healthy people.

Right now insurance companies decide whether or not to cover you for a procedure. If a procedure is deemed too experimental, for example, it may not be covered. If it is too expensive, you are responsible for paying the costs of it after a certain point.

If we do not take the steps to regulate insurance industry practices now, American families will see their coverage shrink and costs go up.

OUR PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO GET HEALTH CARE REFORM RIGHT

(Mr. MCCARTHY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was in a meeting with a microcosm of small businesses around the United States. We met inside this Capitol. We talked about health care. We talked about ways to reform health care, to bring the costs down, the quality up, to be able to have greater accessibility, to be able to have the ability to move from job to job and have health care coverage, to be able to have choice and quality.

And when I sat around this table with small business owners, one of the individuals owned a Kentucky Fried Chicken, one owned a pizza establishment, and he talked about going from 45 employees to 35. He said if this health care bill, as proposed, as is written today, his question will not be, will he have to lay people off; the question will be, will he shut down? He will have to close his business if this bill passes this week.

I ask that we spend our priority not on how much time we have to pick a dog but how much time we actually have to do health care right.

SHOP ACT/HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GERLACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the House Democrat health care reform package and its impact on small businesses and jobs.

At a time when our Nation's unemployment rate is approaching 10 percent, this legislation would impose new surtaxes on high-wage earners to pay for reform. The reality is that this is not a tax on the rich, as many would claim, but rather a tax on small business owners, who provide 70 percent of the jobs in the United States. And if enacted, these taxes could cost 4.7 million more jobs to be lost.

Now is not the time to be pushing legislation that would cause even more Americans to lose their jobs. Instead, we need to focus our ways and our attention on ways to make health care more affordable for small business owners so that they can meet the needs of the health of their employees and stay in business. That is why we should allow small businesses to band together in statewide and nationwide pools to obtain lower insurance premiums and provide a tax credit for small business owners and the self-employed. We need to help small business owners with the right health care reform, not legislation that just raises their taxes in these tough economic times.